

Tues: Discussion/quiz

Ch 12 Conc Q ~~6, 8~~ 3, 11  
 Prob 10, 27, 66

## Rotational Energy

While rotational dynamics can describe the rotational motion of any object in principle, in practise it can be difficult to implement. One example that illustrates this is a pivoting rod / tree / chimney

Demo: Falling chimney page (Physics Central + video links)

Consider a pivoting rod. The net torque is entirely due to gravity. Thus

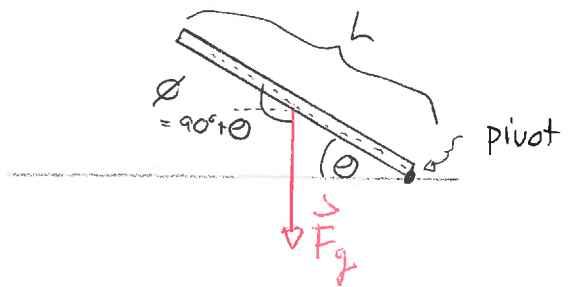
$$\tau_{\text{net}} = I\alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow \tau_g = I\alpha$$

But  $\tau_g = r F_g \sin \phi$  implies

$$\tau_{\text{net}} = mg \frac{L}{2} \sin(90^\circ + \theta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \tau_{\text{net}} = \frac{mgh}{2} \cos \theta$$



So the angular acceleration changes as the rod pivots. Ordinary constant angular acceleration kinematics is insufficient here.

But we can get limited information by using energy.

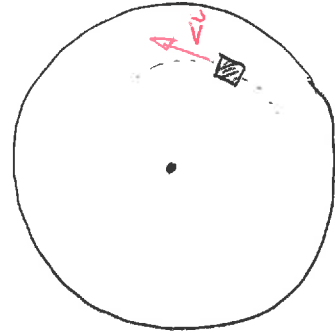
## Rotational kinetic energy

Any moving mass has non-zero kinetic energy. Consider a disk that rotates about its center. The illustrated shaded section, with mass  $m$  has kinetic energy

$$K = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$

But  $v = \omega r$  implies:

$$K = \frac{1}{2} m (\omega r)^2 = \frac{1}{2} (m r^2) \omega^2$$



Then  $m r^2$  is just the moment of inertia of the shaded section. Adding the contributions for all shaded sections (angular velocity is the same) gives  $K = \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2$ . This is an example of a general rule:

A rotating object has rotational kinetic energy

$$K_{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2$$

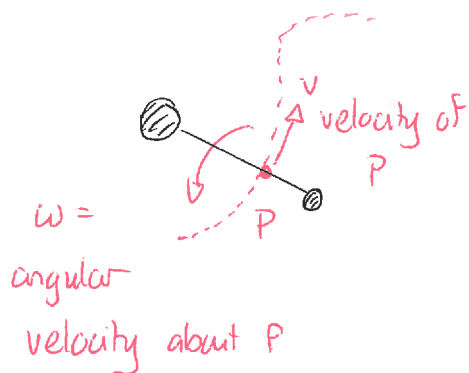
where  $I$  is the moment of inertia of the object about the axis of rotation and  $\omega$  is the angular velocity about that point.

Warm Up 1

Quiz 1 90%  $\approx$  90%

## Energy Conservation.

Consider an object that undergoes rotational and translational motion. We can track one particular point, say P. Then the total kinetic energy can be divided into two parts:



- translational kinetic energy associated with motion of P

$$K_{\text{trans}} = \frac{1}{2} M V^2$$

total mass      speed of P

- rotational kinetic energy about P

$$K_{\text{rot}} = \frac{1}{2} I \omega^2$$

moment of inertia about P

The total kinetic energy is

$$K = K_{\text{trans}} + K_{\text{rot}}$$

and

If non-conservative forces do zero work, then the energy

$$E = K + U_g + U_{\text{sp}} + \dots$$

$$\hookrightarrow K_{\text{trans}} + K_{\text{rot}}$$

is constant (conserved)

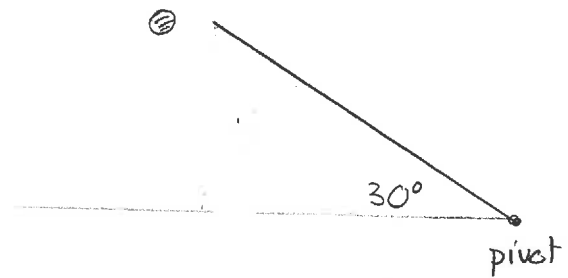
Warm Up 2

Example: A 2.0m long 0.200kg rod

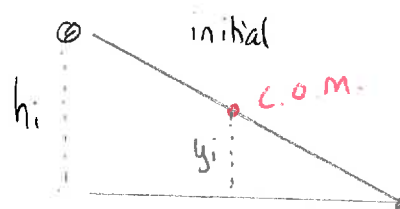
is held at rest as illustrated.

The rod pivots about one end and is released. Determine:

- the angular velocity as the tip reaches the ground
- " speed of the tip as it reaches the ground.
- " speed of a ball dropped from the same height, as it reaches the ground



Answer:



$$\omega_i = 0$$

$$y_i =$$

final



$$\omega_f = ??$$

$$y_f = 0$$

a) Energy is conserved  $\Rightarrow E_f = E_i$

Then  $E = K + U_g = K_{\text{trans}} + K_{\text{rot}} + U_g$  gives:

$\circ$  for point P.

$$K_{\text{rot}f} + \cancel{U_{gf}} = \cancel{K_{\text{rot}i}} + U_{gi}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} I \omega_f^2 = mgy_i \quad \text{c.o.m initially}$$

where  $I$  is the moment of inertia of the rod about one end:

$$I = \frac{1}{3} ML^2$$

where  $L$  is the length of the rod.

Thus:

$$\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{3} mL^2 \right) \omega_f^2 = mgy_i$$

$$\frac{1}{6} mL^2 \omega_f^2 = mgy_i$$

$$\omega_f^2 = 6gy_i / L^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \omega_f = \frac{\sqrt{6gy_i}}{L}$$

In this case:

$$y_i / (L/2) = \sin 30^\circ \Rightarrow y_i = \frac{L}{2} \sin 30^\circ \\ = 1.0 \text{ m} \sin 30^\circ = 0.50 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{Thus } \omega_f = \frac{\sqrt{6 \times 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 \times 0.50 \text{ m}}}{(2.0 \text{ m})} \Rightarrow \omega_f = 2.7 \text{ rad/s.}$$

b) Use  $v_f = r\omega_f$  and here  $r$  is the distance from P to the tip. So,

$$v_f = L\omega_f = \sqrt{6gy_i} \Rightarrow v_f = \sqrt{6gy_i}$$

$$\text{Here } v_f = \sqrt{6 \times 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 \times 0.50 \text{ m}} \\ \Rightarrow v_f = 5.4 \text{ m/s}$$

c) For the ball energy conservation implies  $K_f = U_{gi}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} M_{\text{ball}} v_{f, \text{ball}}^2 = M_{\text{ball}} gh_i \Rightarrow v_{f, \text{ball}} = \sqrt{2gh_i}$$

$$\text{But } h_i = 2y_i \text{ by geometry. So } v_{f, \text{ball}} = \sqrt{4gy_i}$$

The ball drops more slowly.

Demo: U Iowa Falling Chimney.

Challenge: 1) Show that there is one point on the rod that hits the ground at the same speed as ~~the~~ a freely falling ball dropped from the same point.

Show it is  $\frac{2}{3}L$  from the pivot.

2) Show that when the rod is at angle  $\theta$ , the acceleration of the tip is

$$a_t = \frac{3}{2}g \cos \theta.$$